

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00891 191240Z
ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 /019 W
-----056897 191243Z /10

O R 191225Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6873
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0891

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, APOU, SOPN, UR
SUBJECT: QUERY BY CORRESPONDENT ON USE OF POUCH FACILITIES

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM PARIS JANUARY 19 FROM ONE BERNARD KAPLAN, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS CORRESPONDENT OF HEARST NEW SERVICE. KAPLAN, CITING "DISSIDENT CIRCLES" IN PARIS, INQUIRED ABOUT ALLEGED EMBASSY POLICY "INSTITUTED PERSONALLY BY AMBASSADOR TOON" PROHIBITING EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND OTHERS WITH ACCESS TO EMBASSY FROM TRANSMITTING BY "DIPLOMATIC POUCH OR OTHER CHANNELS" "ANTI-SOVIET MATERIALS OR OTHER LITERATURE CONCERNING DISSIDENT MOVEMENT." KAPLAN ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD ANY COMMENT ON FOREGOING.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER DECLINED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH KAPLAN OVER OPEN PHONE LINE. INSTEAD, WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH, WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, WE WOULD USE IN RESPONDING TO ANY LOCAL RPT LOCAL INQUIRIES ON SUBJECT:

"THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH IS A PRIVILEGED CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OVERSEAS. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE DO NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS WHAT IS OR IS NOT TRANSMITTED VIA THIS CHANNEL, BUT WE CAN STATE THAT NO RPT NO SO-CALLED 'POLICY' HAS BEEN INSTITUTED WHICH MATERIALLY
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AFFECTS OR CHANGES THE NATURE OF ITEMS WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN ACCEPTABLE FOR TRANSMITTAL BY POUCH."

3. IN SPECIFIC CASE OF KAPLAN, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE EMBASSY PARIS SHOULD PASS ON GUIDANCE. AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WE FEEL THIS IS SUBJECT DECIDEDLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION OVER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION UNDOUBTEDLY MONITORED BY SOVIETS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT RESPONSE ASAP, WITH NOTIFICATION TO
EMBASSY PARIS RE PARA THREE ABOVE.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POUCH SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 66
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47e83be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: OGEN, APOU, SOPN, UR, (KAPLAN, BERNARD)
To: STATE PARIS
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Review Markings:
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